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OFFICIAL



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PASTORAL WORK.

A Paper Read By The Rev. Richard Davis, Pastor Of Taylor's Chapel, M. E. Church, This City, Before The Sedalia Ministerial Alliance, Monday, December, 16th.

There is another shepherd. The shepherd that has the care of the flock. It is the duty of the pastor to be a shepherd, whose duty it is to watch over the people of his charge, and instruct

them. The shepherd is another name for the pastor. The shepherd, or pastor, can never court ease nor pleasure when the life or safety of his flock is in danger or peril. If he does, he proves himself unworthy of the trust that has been given him.

A lesson for the pastors for all times are found in the conduct of the Apostle Paul as recorded in the 21st Ch. of the Acts of the Apostles. His duty called him to Jerusalem. And the prophet Agabus with others attempted to persuade him not to go, declaring that difficulties and dangerous persecutions awaited him there; but Paul was not the shepherd to the frightened. But said, I am ready not to be bound only, but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. There was something that he valued higher than ease or earthly pleasures. It was his work of preaching, teaching and spreading the kingdom of God and his Christ. The pastor's work is to preach the gospel to the people. This I conceive to be the most important work of the pastor. And to do this successfully and effectively he must possess these requisites. 1st, he must be called of God to preach. 2nd, he must apply himself to diligent study. The people come to hear religious information. They are the sheep that have been committed to his care, and he is to feed them on the word of God. Like the prophets of old he is to receive the message from God and give it to them. Hence, if he is to be a successful pastor, and skillful in the work he is engaged, he must study to show himself approved unto God as a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Paul's advice to Timothy is a good one for the pastor of the present day. Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. It takes a brave man to do this rebuking and reproof. Personal interest, and personal popularity are sometimes to

be sacrificed in doing this. And it often becomes a question of bread and butter with the minister. The people, many of them, want teachers that will tickle their intellect, but leave their sins untouched. And this ungodly state to be found in the membership in many churches puts the pastor in a straight betwixt two. His personal needs and his religious duty, shall I preach to them the word of God, and endanger my personal interest or shall I give them the message, line upon line, and precept upon precept.

Well, the man called of God is not long in deciding where the path of duty lies in such cases. Personal interest and personal popularity, will perish and pass away, and especially that kind that is gained by bowing to the wicked whims of the unsaved in our membership. God's ministers need not fear starving as long as they do His bidding. He has promised to take care of his servants, and his promises are true. He fed His servant Elijah by sending food to him by a raven. And Jesus said to His disciples, take no thought what ye shall eat nor where withal shall ye be clothed, but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Thus the pastor

many that are filling pulpits thro'out the length and breadth of this country, preaching and teaching higher criticism. These are the ones that are doing more to unsettle and shake the minds and faith of the people today than all the infidels in the universe. The things that the fathers taught and the people of their day accepted as being true, are being denied by the great scholars of to day. And true reading world is asking this serious question, who is right? And those scholarly critics are imposing and extra burden upon the true pastor. The things that were taught by Spurgeon, Simpson, Beecher, and Talmage and hundreds of others that were noted for their scholarship, and under whose preaching thousands were led to God and a divine life, Under our modern critics their doctrine and teaching are being repudiated. One Dr. Crapsey of the Episcopal Church in Rochester New York has denied the virgin birth of Christ; also his physical resurrection and ascension. Before he was excommunicated from his church he was about to try to prove that Jesus Christ was not the Son of God. Now take these pillows from under the Christian temple, and what have we left. And I am sure that this learned gentleman is not alone in his teachings. The pastor in his work must meet these destroyers of the faith of the believers, and in some way show them that the foundation of the church of God standeth sure.

I may say that you white brethren have a harder task on your hands on this line than we colored ministers have; because of the better opportunities your people have had, and are having for study and learning. If it be true as some have said that a little learning is dangerous, it is equally true that unsanctified learning is more dangerous.

My people may deny the authenticity of the Bible and call in question its authorship, but cannot produce any logical reason for the position taken. Your scholars are many, and it is your scholarly men who have studied all the sciences, explored every avenue of knowledge that are saying today that the old book is not true. And you true shepherds of the flock of the Master must contend with those teachers and subverters of the faith by crying day and night to the people, to behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.

In some way, and some how, the minister must get his flock to see that sin is hateful in the sight of God and that no amount of learning will excuse him or her, or atone for their guilt. We are to bring them to see what Christ meant when he said to Nicodemus Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. This leads me to say that the pastor who performs his duty must of necessity be a busy man. His place is in the Sunday School; his duties take him to the sick room; he must visit from house to house; he must preach funerals and try to get saints and sinners into heaven, or else be criticised by some members of his fold. In a word he is to be all things to all men that he may win them to Christ.

This, Mr. Chairman and brethren I conceive to be the work of the pastor, and whatever you may add to what has been said in your further discussion of this subject will be thankfully received by the writer.

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out of fear of suffering for the needs of life neglect his duty, God will provide for him.

The importance of preaching the gospel is inferred from what Paul said in his first Epistle to Cor. Said he, for after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believed. And again, in his letter to the Romans, he said, for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth.

God has not only given the people the messenger, but the message he is to bring to them. Again, the pastor's work is that of a watchman. He is to watch the kind of literature that is being scattered broadcast throughout the length and breadth of this land. Some of it is wholesome to be sure, but much of it is poisonous to the minds of those that read it. He is to try to turn his flock away from that that is debasing, to that that is elevating and ennobling. He is to circulate his church literature that the people may be intelligent worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The work of the pastor is to guard his flock against a certain class of teachers that seem to be attempting to undermine the foundation upon which the faith of the Christian Church hath rested through all the centuries past. I do not think that we need to fear what infidels outside of the church can do toward destroying the faith of the saints. But I think there is danger of men in the church who claim to be authority in finding the true meaning of the text of the scriptures, and who are moulding the minds of the young in many of the Christian schools in this land, and

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A Smart Negro.

A. R. Chinn, at the head of the colored school at Glasgow, for many years, is one of the smartest Negroes in Missouri. As president of the Missouri Negro Teachers' Association, he delivered an address before the recent convention in Mobily that was highly creditable. In his advice to his race he said: "You should never associate with the poor, miserable, scornful scum of the earth. Court the society of the intelligent ladies and gentlemen of your own race. In business affairs, deal with the educated, courteous and financial white men. With others let it be a courteous 'vea' or 'nay.' For with centuries of freedom, they have done nothing for themselves and cannot possibly benefit others."

—Howard County Adv't.

NEW ERA OFFICERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan 10, 1907.

Dear Editor:

The following officers have been elected by New Era lodge number 40 K. of P. for the ensuing term:

Wm Scott, C. C.
Wm Woods, V C
Chas. W Smith, Prelate
Wade H. Robinson, K R and S
Marshall Wilson, M of F
James H Smith, M of E
A C Randall, M of W
John Bibbs, M at A
Wm Brashie, inner guard
Harry King, outer guard.

Trustee board: Walter Pritchett
Chas. Hickox
Estett Washington

Walter Pritchett and Thomas Reed were elected to represent New Era Lodge at the grand session to be held in Fayette, Mo. next July.

Wishing you success,
Wade H. Robinson.
P. O. Box 283. K R S.

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